## REQUEST MAR 0 3 2004 CONTINUED EXAMINATION TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provided for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/863,280
Filing Date	May 24, 2001
First Named Inventor	Takeshi YAMANE
Group Art Unit	1762
Examiner Name	Eric B. Fuller
Attorney Docket Number	2001_0642A
Confirmation No.	9243

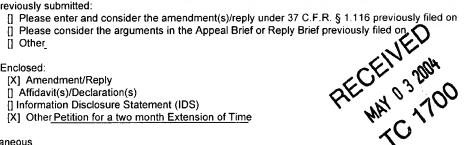
This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application. 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may

wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

- Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
  - a. [] Previously submitted:

    - iii. [] Other
  - b. [X] Enclosed:

    - ii



MAR 0 8 2004

- 2 Miscellaneous
  - a. [] Suspension of action on the above-identified application is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period ofmonths. (period of suspension stiple) not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required).
  - b. [] Other
- Fees (The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.)
  - a. [] The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No.
    - i. [] RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
    - ii. [] Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and § 1.17)
    - iii. [] Other
  - b. [X] Check in the amount of \$1,190.00 enclosed

4. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

CUSTOMER NO.

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March 3, 2004

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THE CUMMISSIUNER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975